

Applicant: Claudio Vernetti et al.
Appl. No.: 10/510,442

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the careful consideration of this application. Claims 1-9, 11-13, 15, 16, 18-23, and 25 are currently pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 18-20, 22, and 23 have been amended. Claims 10, 14, 17, and 24 have been cancelled, without prejudice. Based on the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Applicant appreciates the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 11, 13, 20, and 21. Claims 11, 13, and 20 have been rewritten in independent form, including all of the elements of their respective base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 21 depends from claim 20. The Applicant respectfully requests that claims 11, 13, 20, and 21 be allowed.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 1 for reciting "said motor" instead of "said paper feeding motor" in line 13. Claim 1 has been amended to address this informality.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 10, 18, 19, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 112,

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second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Office Action indicated that there was insufficient antecedent basis for “the picking motor” in line 8 of claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to recite “the picking roller” in place of “the picking motor.”

The Office Action also asserted that it was unclear what was meant by the recitation of “high resolution.” The phrase “high resolution” has been changed to “low speed,” as suggested by the Examiner.

The Office Action rejected claim 10 because it was allegedly unclear how the element “the blocking group” relates to the other elements of claim 1. Claim 10 has been cancelled, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 23 and 25 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,676,365 to Pittelkow et al. (“Pittelkow”). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

Independent claim 23 has been amended to recite that “said support [is] movable between a first position where the worm screw is in engagement with the helical wheel, and a second position where the worm screw is disengaged from the helical wheel,” and that “the support is adapted to be driven to the first position by the pinion upon a predetermined

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direction of rotation of the motor to engage the worm screw with the helical wheel.”

Pittelkow does not disclose the claimed arrangement.

The Office Action aligns the worm shaft 16 of Pittelkow with the claimed “support,” the worm 15 with the claimed “worm screw,” and the worm gear 14 with the claimed “helical wheel.” The Office Action also aligns the electric motor 26 of Pittelkow with the claimed “motor.” However, Pittelkow does not disclose that the worm shaft 16 is movable between a first position where the worm 15 is in engagement with the worm gear 14, and a second position where the worm 15 is disengaged from the worm gear 14, as claimed. Rather, the position of Pittelkow’s worm shaft 16 is permanently fixed by bearings 19 and 20, as shown in FIG. 1. (*See, e.g.*, Pittelkow at 3:60-65, FIG. 1.) Further, Pittelkow’s worm shaft 16 is *not* adapted to be driven to the first position upon a predetermined direction of rotation of the electric motor 26 to engage the worm 15 with the worm gear 14, as claimed. Instead, Pittelkow’s worm shaft 16 is permanently fixed in a position where the worm 15 engages the worm gear 14, as shown in FIG. 1. (*See, e.g.*, Pittelkow at 3:60-65, FIG. 1.) Therefore, Pittelkow does not anticipate claim 23.

Claim 25 depends from claim 23, and is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 15, 16, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,650,436 to Hamamoto et al. (“Hamamoto”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,446,954 to Lim (“Lim”), and further in view of Japanese Patent

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No. 58131084 to Nakajima (“Nakajima”). Claim 10 has been canceled, without prejudice.

Claims 1, 4, and 22 are the independent claims. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons.

I. Claims 1-3, 12, and 16

Independent claim 1 has been amended to recite “a deflector adapted to contact the sheet when the motor roller retracts the sheet in the retraction direction, the deflector adapted to deflect the sheet onto an alternative path to the picking path.” No reasonable combination of Hamamoto, Lim, and Nakajima discloses the claimed arrangement. The Office Action asserts that Lim teaches a motor roller that retracts a sheet 14 in a retraction direction R along an alternative path to the picking path, relying specifically on the curved shape of the sheet 14 (see Lim at FIGS. 2A, 2B, 3B, and 3F). However, the curved shape of the sheet 14 in Lim is not created by “a deflector adapted to contact the sheet when the motor roller retracts the sheet in the retraction direction, the deflector adapted to deflect the sheet onto an alternative path to the picking path,” as recited by amended claim 1. Instead, the curved shape of Lim’s sheet 14 is caused by the relative speed of pick roller 4 and driver roller 6. As a result, Lim does not disclose “a deflector adapted to contact the sheet when the motor roller retracts the sheet in the retraction direction, the deflector adapted to deflect the sheet onto an alternative path to the picking path.” Hamamoto and Nakajima also fail to disclose “a deflector adapted to contact the sheet when the motor roller retracts the sheet in the retraction direction, the deflector adapted to deflect the sheet onto an alternative path to the picking path.” Therefore, no reasonable combination of Hamamoto, Lim, and Nakamoto renders obvious claim 1.

Claims 2, 3, 12, and 16 depend from claim 1, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

II. Claims 4, 6-9, and 15

Independent claim 4 has been amended to recite “an actuating member adapted to operate the changeover mechanism at high speed when the paper feeding motor rotates in a first direction, the actuating member further adapted to switch the changeover mechanism to low speed when the paper feeding motor rotates in a second direction opposite to the first direction.”

No reasonable combination of Hamamoto, Lim, and Nakajima discloses the claimed arrangement. The Office Action asserts that Nakajima discloses “a changeover mechanism that feeds paper at high speed initially, then stops then slows down prior to printing, then is ejected at high speed.” However, Nakajima does not disclose that the changeover mechanism changes speed *based on the direction of rotation* of the motor. Rather, Nakajima discloses that its “motor 34 is a pulse motor, the rotating speed of which is controlled in accordance with the number of pulses.” (*See* Nakajima at Abstract.) As a result, Nakajima does not disclose “an actuating member adapted to operate the changeover mechanism at high speed when the paper feeding motor rotates in a first direction, the actuating member further adapted to switch the changeover mechanism to low speed when the paper feeding motor rotates in a second direction opposite to the first direction.” Hamamoto and Lim also fail to disclose this claim feature.

Therefore, no reasonable combination of Hamamoto, Lim, and Nakamoto renders obvious claim 4.

Claims 6-9 and 15 depend from claim 4, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

III. Claim 22

Independent claim 22 has been amended to recite a “first kinematic linkage associated with said feeding motor for producing high speed movements of the sheets,” a “second kinematic linkage associated with said feeding motor for producing low speed movements of the sheets,” and “a control group . . . adapted to engage the first kinematic linkage or the second kinematic linkage based on the position of the carriage.” No reasonable combination of Hamamoto, Lim, and Nakajima discloses the claimed arrangement. The Office Action aligns the control rod 141 of Hamamoto with the claimed “control group,” and aligns the carriage 41 with the claimed “carriage.” However, the control rod 141 of Hamamoto does not engage a “first kinematic linkage” that produces “high speed movements of the sheets” or a “second kinematic linkage” that produces “low speed movements of the sheets” based on the position of the carriage 41. Rather, the control rod 141 of Hamamoto activates or deactivates an *ink cleaning mechanism 45* based on the position of the carriage 41. (See, e.g., Hamamoto at 13:39-14:9.) Neither Lim nor Nakajima provides the necessary disclosure to modify Hamamoto’s control rod 141 to engage a “first kinematic linkage” that produces “high speed movements of the sheets” or a “second kinematic linkage” that produces “low speed movements of the sheets” based on the position of the carriage 41. Accordingly, no reasonable combination of Hamamoto, Lim, and Nakajima renders obvious a “first kinematic linkage associated with said feeding motor for producing high speed movements of the sheets,” a “second kinematic linkage associated with said feeding motor for producing low speed movements of the sheets,” and “a control group . . . adapted to engage the first kinematic linkage or the second kinematic linkage based on the position of the carriage.”

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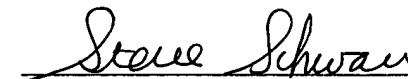
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant, therefore, respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is hereby invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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